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FACT SHEET

August 21, 2008

Contact: Charlie Roberts (801 297-3910 or 801 556-6318)

Utah Motor Vehicle Enforcement Officers seek suspects in VIN switching operation

- Police investigators of the Motor Vehicle Enforcement Division of the State Tax Commission are seeking leads on a male suspected of operating a sophisticated vehicle identification number (VIN) switching operation.
- Victims are commercial car dealerships in the St. George and Cedar City area.
- Attached is a photograph of a person interest in the investigation.
- The switching operation includes stealing late model, expensive vehicles, falsifying titles, registration and VIN numbers. The vehicles are then traded in to auto dealers for a lower priced vehicle and cash.
- On Aug. 19, 2008, a Cedar City auto dealership became suspicious of a trade-in vehicle
- The vehicle record reflected that the title was branded as a rebuilt/restored vehicle; however, the vehicle did not appear to have ever been damaged.
- An MVED Investigator was able to locate the confidential VIN and identify the vehicle as a stolen vehicle out of Arizona.
- The 2006 Chevrolet Avalanche was title in Utah using a counterfeit New Mexico title. A late model Dodge 4-wheeled drive crew cab truck is also believed to be connected in the case.
- The Motor vehicle Enforcement Division is seeking any information on the person of interest in the photo.
- The person has a Cadillac emblem tattooed on the back of his left hand.
- **If you have any information about this person or have purchased vehicle from this person, please call Larry Ball 435 586-2505 or Kent Jorgensen 801 297-2617.**